**Gauge Conversion of Silchar-Jiribam Railway line**

1175. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for gauge conversion of the Silchar-Jiribam railway line;

(b) when the survey work of the Silchar-Jiribam line will be completed;

(c) whether there is any possibility in the budget provision of this year to take up this line; and

(d) if not, when work will be started to take up this line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) A survey is in progress for the gauge conversion of Silchar-Jiribam line.

(b) By March, 1999.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Taking up of the work would be considered only after receipt of the survey report.

**Overcrowding of Trains at Ahmedabad Railway Station**

1176. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ahmedabad railway station is having problem of over crowding of trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a proposal was sent by the State Government to the Railway Ministry for development of Sabarmati railway station to solve overcrowding problem at Ahmedabad station; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken by Central Government on the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received to provide stoppage of all Mail/Express/Passenger trains at Sabarmati. The same has been examined but not found operationally feasible.

**Electrification Survey of Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram Route**

1177. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost-cum-feasibility survey for the electrification of Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram route has been conducted and the report has been submitted to the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cost-cum-feasibility survey for electrification of Section Ernakulam-Thiruvananthapuram has been carried out in the year 1995. Southern Railway has been asked to update the report. Decision to consider electrification of the above section would be taken on receipt and appraisal of updated report.

**Gauge Conversion in Gujarat Through Private Funding**

1178. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals of Government of Gujarat for conversion of Metre/Narrow gauge railway lines pending with the Centre are